



Good Shepherd Parish Think Tank Meeting- 13th July 2024

Attendees: Isaac Amieghemen, Julian Caesar, Reg Carter (Chair), Nicky Gudgeon, Moira Hodgkinson, Theresa Joseph, Ann Lynch, Ron Lynch, Philip Martin, Janet Myers, Christine Thomas, Cath Verhoeven and Sarah Williamson.

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Reg.

2. Notes/follow up of the previous meeting held on 11th May 2024

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

ACTION- Philip to post the notes on the think tank's page on the parish website and on the notice board in the church narthex.

a) Message from Fr Philipp- It was reiterated that Fr Philipp is keen for volunteers to share their individual stories from the pulpit in the hope of encouraging other parishioners to volunteer. Reg mentioned that a recent participant in the RCIA programme had volunteered to do this at a date to be arranged. It was agreed that other volunteers should in due course be approached to see if they would share their ministry with parishioners. Christine reported that she was doing something similar at St Anthony's on volunteering.

3. Good Shepherd Church Diamond Jubilee-progress report

Ron provided an update on the Jubilee programme for the remainder of the year. Highlights include:

- The Carlton Male Voice Choir is scheduled to perform on 27th September.
- The relics of Saints Francesca and Jacinta are to be received in church on 13th October.
- The programme in November will have a focus on remembrance and the Holy Souls.
- The Jubilee will be formally closed by the Mass for Christ the King on 24th November.

Other possible events for the programme were discussed, including:

- One of our parishioners, Ian Wells, is an expert on the history of Catholic Churches in Nottingham and has offered to give a talk on this topic on a

date to be determined. It was suggested the talk might be supplemented by a cheese and wine evening in the parish centre. **ACTION- Ron** to firm up.

- Francesca Lynch and Adrian Staiano have suggested a “Murder Mystery” evening be organised but will require support in arranging this- details to be provided to Philip to circulate to the think tank membership for consideration. **ACTION- (a) Philip** to circulate the details when available; thereafter **(b) All** to consider and advise Francesca/Adrian if they can provide support for the proposed event.
- Julian advised that he is trying to arrange for ‘Cantamus’ to perform at Good Shepherd as part of the parish Jubilee programme. *[Postscript: Julian subsequently confirmed that the proposed performance will take part on Friday, 22nd November- Julian has agreed to act as the key contact for the event]*
- The Dominican Sisters’ led proposed week-end retreat is still to be agreed: Ron to link with Fr Philipp and/or Joe Hopkins at the diocese to obtain their contact details and firm up a date in liaison with the Cathedral as the Sisters were hoping to combine the visit with an event there. **ACTION- Ron** to follow up.

Finally, the great success of the parish flower festival was noted and the think tank’s thanks to Michelle Swan and Helen White for their work in organising the event were formally recorded.

4. Parish social media and communications policy/calendar

Sarah took the group through the parish calendar between now and December 2024. The parish communications team is moving ahead with developing its suggested approach to communications and Sarah will report back at the think tank’s next meeting in September. **ACTION- Sarah** to report accordingly.

Meanwhile, the following items were noted/discussed:

- The African Community Catholic Choir will be performing at the 9.45am Mass tomorrow (14th July).
- The Novena for Our Lady of Knock starts on 8th August and culminates with a Holy Hour in church commencing at 4.45pm on Saturday 17th August. **ACTION- Sarah** to amend the calendar to reflect this.
- Education Sunday is on 8th September. It is proposed that our schools will lead at the 9.45 am Mass that morning and that Years 6 and 7 should attend for a blessing. It was agreed that the schools should be contacted about this before the end of the current term so they can make suitable preparations on their return on 3rd September. **ACTION: Sarah** to follow up.
- Francesca Lynch/Fr Philipp to ensure that Sarah is informed of events recorded in the parish diary so the parish calendar can be aligned accordingly. **ACTION: Francesca/Fr Philipp** to action accordingly.

5. Parish Pastoral team- feedback

Reg reported on this and the following topics were discussed:

- 2025 is the Catholic Church's Great Jubilee Year, running from the first Sunday of Advent (1st December 2024) until the first Sunday of Advent in December 2025 - Reg tabled a draft document explaining the background and how we might prepare for the Jubilee. It was agreed that this was very helpful and could perhaps be produced as a supplement to the parish newsletter. **ACTION: Reg** to follow up.
- It is proposed to start an Alpha programme for the parish in the autumn, to build on the proposed Dominican Sisters' led retreat weekend. It was suggested it would be helpful to organise other parish retreats in due course.
- The think tank was asked to think about how the parish could deliver a different and more effective Confirmation programme. Ron queried whether links were made with the "Faith in Action" awards scheme with which Christ the King Academy is believed to be involved. **ACTION- Ron** to find out more and link with Reg.
- More generally, it was agreed that young people should be encouraged to take responsibility for leading parish initiatives and in doing so should be given a reasonable degree of freedom to develop their own ideas/approach.
- It was agreed it would be helpful for the parish ministries to meet to discuss the Great Jubilee Year and in particular how they might contribute to the parish's evangelisation efforts. **ACTION: Reg** to arrange a meeting in due course.
- The role of our Catholic schools was discussed in the context of the think tank's deliberations and the general life of the parish. Sarah suggested it might be helpful for representatives of the think tank to meet with young parishioners, perhaps at Christ the King School, to discuss what the parish could do better from their perspective and what schools would like from the parish. **ACTION: Reg** to discuss with Jo Love in the first instance.
- It was noted that the Head Teacher of St Margaret Clitherow School had previously indicated that the school would welcome the opportunity for its pupils to read regularly at the 9.45am Sunday Mass but to date this didn't seem to have been arranged by the parish. It was agreed that Philip should raise this on the think tank's behalf with Fr Philipp and/or Ann Jones so appropriate arrangements could be considered with the school. **ACTION: Philip** to pursue accordingly.
- Christine advised that the altar servers at St Anthony's will regularly assist with the bidding prayers from September.
- The "Enabling Mission" campaign was discussed in some detail. There had been a poor response to the requested completion of the "pledge" cards which had been handed out last week-end in church although it was recognised that some parishioners may not have fully understood what was required. The cards will be distributed again this week-end in the hope that there will be a better response. It was mentioned that some parishioners feel overloaded with requests for financial help from the parish and the diocese et al and are uncomfortable with what they perceive to be undue pressure to participate in this particular initiative. It was agreed that it needs to be explained that there is no pressure to participate financially but a clear indication of parishioners'

intentions is helpful for forward planning and in any event parishioners' prayers for the success of the initiative will be of great assistance.

6. Safeguarding

Julian and Christine reported. Key points raised were:

- The register of staff and volunteers required by the diocese has now been completed.
- At Good Shepherd, there are currently 107 DBS checked volunteers and 25 registered non-DBS checked volunteers, with many volunteers undertaking multiple roles.
- At St Anthony's, there are currently 11 DBS checked volunteers and 16 registered non-DBS checked volunteers, with some roles again overlapping.
- A diocesan meeting of all parish safeguarding representatives is scheduled for October 2024.
- The diocese is to roll out a programme of mandatory training for DBS volunteers by December 2024.
- Reg to let Julian have details of the parish pastoral team membership and the catechists' team. **ACTION- Reg** to follow up.

7. Any Other Business

a) HMO property adjacent to the church- Cath mentioned that planning permission was being sought for a property adjacent to the church to be converted to a House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) and that up to 8 bedrooms/accommodation for 9 people was proposed. Fr Philipp had asked the think tank to consider whether a planning objection should be lodged with Gedling Borough Council given potential problems with parking etc. It was suggested that representatives of the parish might arrange a meeting with Councillor Ron McCrossen from Gedling Borough Council to express its views and that neighbours of the parish could be invited to attend the meeting if they so wished. It was agreed that Cath, supported by Ron, would contact Cllr McCrossen with a view to organising this. **ACTION- Cath** to action accordingly. *[Postscript: it was subsequently identified that the planning process only allowed for objections to be lodged up to 21 days from the 24th June 2024 which was the date of publication of the planning notice - ie until tomorrow, 14th July. This clearly mitigates against organising the proposed meeting]*

b) Befriending arrangements- Ann suggested that the parish might wish to consider developing a structure of parish befrienders for young families and/or housebound parishioners, without encroaching on the work of the parish SVP society.

c) Seminars of the Spirit- Ann mentioned this approach which had gone down very well at other Catholic churches and had supported ecumenical contacts with other Christian churches.

d) Parish Prayer Group- Ann reminded the think tank that the parish had an active prayer group of about 10 parishioners who meet regularly on

Wednesdays. It is possible for people to request prayers for loved ones etc on a strictly confidential basis -the contacts are Ann (07930 150953) and Jane (text only, on 07770 720765). It was suggested that the group should be profiled in the parish newsletter and included in the list of parish contacts.

e) *Our Lady of Walsingham*- Ron advised that the Vatican had agreed to 24th September 2024 being recognised as the special feast day of Our Lady of Walsingham in the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

f) *Friends of Jesus of Nazareth Community*- Isaac reminded colleagues of this initiative whose objective is to promote, pray and work for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. Details of the initiative were included in the supplement to the parish newsletter dated 7th July 2024. A meeting will be held in due course to firm up the proposed approach. It was suggested that it would be helpful in this respect to provide a clear pathway for parishioners who want to be involved as either active members or associate members of the community. **ACTION- Isaac** to consider and keep the think tank informed of progress.

8. Date of the next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the think tank would be from 10.00-11.30am on Saturday, 28th September 2024.

9. Closing Prayer

Isaac led the group in the recitation of the Angelus.